

PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Huan Nguyen, 26, Minneapolis, Minnesota, pleaded guilty yesterday in U.S. District Court in Madison to conspiracy to distribute marijuana, to distribution of marijuana, and to possession of marijuana with intent to distribute.

From February 2004 until January 2006, Nguyen conspired with Darryl Chapman to possess and to distribute marijuana in Oneida County and Vilas County. Utilizing an informant, officers from the Oneida County Sheriff's Department were able to purchase marijuana from Chapman on December 21, 2005. Officers also seized approximately one-quarter kilogram of marijuana from Chapman's residence on January 3, 2006. Upon arrest, Chapman admitted that his source for marijuana was Nguyen.

On January 12, 2006, law enforcement officers executed a search warrant at Nguyen's residence in Minneapolis, during which they found approximately one kilogram of marijuana, \$116,780 in cash, digital scales, and packaging materials.

On April 19, 2006, Chapman was sentenced to 10 years in prison for his role in the conspiracy.

U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz scheduled sentencing for October 11, 2007. Nguyen faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each count. Nguyen also agreed to forfeit the \$116,780 seized from his residence as proceeds of the drug conspiracy.

The charges against Nguyen were the result of an investigation conducted by the Oneida County Sheriff's Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

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